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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 RENO MAY , et al.

Case No. 8:23-cv-01696-MRA-ADS

12 Plaintiff(s),

**ORDER SETTING SCHEDULING  
CONFERENCE**

13 v.

14 ROBERT BONTA, et al.

**Date:** May 5, 2025

15 Defendant(s).

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Courtroom:** 10B

**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT CONTROLS THIS CASE  
AND DIFFERS IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

22 This case has been assigned to United States District Judge Mónica Ramírez  
23 Almadani. This matter is set for a Scheduling Conference on the above date in  
24 Courtroom 10B of the First Street Courthouse, 350 West 1st Street, Los Angeles,  
25 CA 90012. Judge Mónica Ramírez Almadani's procedures web page is  
26 incorporated in this Order. The parties and counsel shall review and comply  
27 with those procedures and notices, which are available at  
28 <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-monica-ramirez-almadani>.

1      **A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

2      **1. Service of Pleadings.** If plaintiff has not already served the operative  
3      complaint on all defendants, plaintiff shall do so promptly and shall file proofs of  
4      service of the summons and complaint within three (3) days thereafter. *See* Fed. R.  
5      Civ. P. 4. Defendants also shall timely serve and file their responsive pleadings (if  
6      not previously done) and comply the requirements of Local Rule 5-3.2. The  
7      Court will not consider motions or stipulations to continue deadlines to respond  
8      to the complaint without the required proofs of service. At the Scheduling  
9      Conference, the court will set a date by which motions to amend the pleadings  
10     or add parties must be heard.

11     **2. Order Applies to *Pro Se* Litigants.** “Counsel,” as used in this Order,  
12     includes parties who have elected to appear without counsel and are representing  
13     themselves in this litigation (hereinafter referred to as “*Pro Se* Litigants”). *Pro Se*  
14     Litigants must comply with this Order, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and  
15     the Local Rules. *See* L.R. 1-3, 83-2.2.3. *Pro Se* Litigants are required to  
16     participate in the scheduling conference.

17     **3. Notice to be Provided by Counsel.** Plaintiff’s counsel or, if plaintiff is a  
18     *Pro Se* Litigant, defendant’s counsel, shall provide this Order to all known parties  
19     who have not yet appeared or who appear after the date of this Order. This and  
20     all other applicable orders in this case are available at the bottom of Judge Ramírez  
21     Almadani’s webpage (<http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-mónica-ramírez-almadani>). The Local Rules are available on the Central District of  
22     California website <https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/court-procedures/local-rules>).

23     **4. Compliance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26.** The scheduling conference will  
24     be held pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 16(b). The parties are reminded of their  
25     obligations to (i) make initial disclosures “without awaiting a discovery request”  
26     (Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)) and (ii) confer on a discovery plan at least twenty-one  
27     (21) days before the scheduling conference (Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)). The Court

1 encourages Counsel to agree to begin to conduct discovery actively before the  
2 Scheduling Conference. At the very least, the parties shall comply fully with the  
3 letter and spirit of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a) and thereby obtain and produce most of  
4 what would be produced in the early stage of discovery. At the scheduling  
5 conference the Court will impose strict deadlines to complete discovery.

6 **5. Participation of Lead Trial Counsel and Unrepresented Parties.**

7 Lead trial counsel and any unrepresented parties must attend the scheduling  
8 conference, unless excused by the Court for good cause prior to the conference.

9 **6. Continuance.** A request to continue the scheduling conference will be  
10 granted only for good cause. The parties should plan to file the Joint Rule 26(f)  
11 Report on the original due date even if a continuance is granted. The Court will not  
12 continue the scheduling conference to allow the parties to explore settlement.

13 **7. Vacating the Conference.** The Court may vacate the scheduling  
14 conference and issue a case management order based on the Joint Rule 26(f)  
15 Report.

16 **B. PARTIES MUST PREPARE AND FILE A JOINT RULE 26(f) REPORT**

17 The Joint Rule 26(f) Report must be filed not later than fourteen (14) days  
18 before the scheduling conference. The Report shall be drafted by plaintiff (unless  
19 plaintiff is a *Pro Se* Litigant or the parties agree otherwise) but shall be submitted  
20 and signed jointly. “Jointly” means a single report, regardless of how many  
21 separately-represented parties exist in the case. The Joint Rule 26(f) Report  
22 shall specify the date of the Mandatory Scheduling Conference on the caption  
23 page. Under the title, it shall list the dates of the (1) Original Complaint;  
24 (2) Removal (if removed); (3) Responsive Pleading; (4) and Final Pretrial  
25 Conference (Proposed). The Joint Rule 26(f) Report shall report all the following  
26 information, which include those required to be discussed by Rule 26(f) and Local  
27 Rule 26, and use numbered section headings and lettered sub-headings that  
28 correspond to those below:

1           **1. Statement of the Case.** A short synopsis (not to exceed two (2) pages)  
2 of the main claims, counterclaims, affirmative defenses, and procedural history.

3           **2. Subject Matter Jurisdiction.** A statement of the specific basis of  
4 federal jurisdiction, including supplemental jurisdiction. For federal question  
5 jurisdiction, cite the federal law under which the claim arises. For diversity  
6 jurisdiction, state each party's citizenship and the amount in controversy.

7           **3. Legal Issues.** A brief description of all key legal issues, including any  
8 significant procedural, substantive, or evidentiary motions.

9           **4. Parties, Evidence, etc.** A list of parties, percipient witnesses, and key  
10 documents on the main issues in the case. For conflict purposes, corporate parties  
11 must identify all subsidiaries, parents, and affiliates.

12           **5. Damages.** The realistic range of provable damages.

13           **6. Insurance.** Whether insurance coverage exists, the extent of coverage,  
14 and whether there is or will be a reservation of rights.

15           **7. Motions.**

16           **(a) Procedural Motions.** A statement of the likelihood of motions  
17 seeking to add other parties or claims, file amended pleadings, transfer venue, or  
18 challenge the court's jurisdiction.

19           **(b) Dispositive Motions.** A description of the issues or claims that  
20 any party believes may be determined by motion to dismiss or motion for summary  
21 judgment. The parties should refer to the Court's web page  
[22 \(http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-mónica-ramírez-almadani\)](http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-mónica-ramírez-almadani) for specific  
23 guidelines governing summary judgment motions.

24           **(c) Class Certification Motion.** For a putative class action, the Court  
25 will set a deadline for hearing the class certification motion. The motion must be  
26 filed sufficiently far in advance of the deadline to allow for: (i) four (4) weeks  
27 for the opposition; (ii) two (2) weeks for the reply; and (iii) at least three (3)  
28 weeks between the filing of the reply and the hearing. The parties must act

1 diligently and begin discovery immediately, because the motion must be filed not  
2 later than one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date originally set for the  
3 scheduling conference, unless the Court orders otherwise. Any request for  
4 additional time beyond the one hundred and twenty (120) days must be supported  
5 by a detailed “Class Certification Plan”—attached as an exhibit at the end of the  
6 Report—showing all anticipated activity and the corresponding date for each  
7 activity, up to the hearing on the motion. The failure to provide the Class  
8 Certification Plan will result in the denial of additional time.

9 **8. Manual for Complex Litigation.** A statement regarding whether all or  
10 part of the procedures of the Manual for Complex Litigation should be utilized.

11 **9. Discovery.**

12 (a) **Status of Discovery.** A discussion of the present state of  
13 discovery, including a summary of pending and completed discovery, and any  
14 current or anticipated disputes.

15 (b) **Discovery Plan.** A detailed discovery plan, as contemplated by  
16 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f). State what, if any, proposed changes in the disclosures under  
17 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a) should be made; the subject(s) on which discovery may be  
18 needed and whether discovery should be conducted in phases or otherwise be  
19 limited; whether applicable limitations should be changed or other limitations  
20 imposed; and whether the Court should enter other orders. A general statement  
21 to the effect that discovery will be conducted on all claims and defenses is  
22 unacceptable.

23 (c) **Discovery Cut-off.** A proposed discovery cut-off date governing  
24 the completion of all fact discovery, including resolution of all discovery motions.

25 (d) **Expert Discovery.** Proposed dates for expert witness disclosures  
26 (initial and rebuttal) and expert discovery cut-off under Rule 26(a)(2).

27 (e) **Settlement Conference/Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).**  
28 A statement of what settlement negotiations have occurred, excluding any

statement of the terms discussed. If a Notice to Parties of Court-Directed ADR Program (Form ADR08) was filed in this case, the court will refer the matter for ADR. The parties must state their preference in the Joint Rule 26(f) Report for: (i) the Magistrate Judge, (ii) the Court Mediation Panel, or (iii) a private mediator (at the parties' expense). The Court will exercise its discretion to select an ADR option for the parties if they fail to state a preference. No case will proceed to trial unless all parties, including an officer of all corporate parties (with full authority to settle the case), have appeared personally and participated in an ADR proceeding.

**(f) Trial.**

17                   **ii. Jury or Court Trial.** Specify whether trial will be by jury  
18 or by court. The default will be a court trial if the parties fail to specify.

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1 Magistrate Judge identified on the Central District website and submit the  
2 appropriate consent form.

21 C. **PARTIES MUST PREPARE AND FILE SCHEDULE OF PRETRIAL**  
22 **AND TRIAL DATES WORKSHEET**

23           Complete the text-fillable Schedule of Pretrial and Trial Dates Worksheet  
24           ("Worksheet"), *see* Appendix A, which is available at the bottom of Judge  
25           Ramírez Almadani's webpage. In addition to filing the Schedule of Pretrial and  
26           Trial Dates Worksheet along with the Joint Rule 26(f) Report, **Counsel must**  
27           **email the text-fillable Worksheet to Chambers** at  
28           MRA\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov along with the Joint Rule 26(f) Report. The

1 Court will then issue an order setting the schedule governing the case. The parties  
2 must make every effort to agree on all pretrial dates.

3 In civil cases, the Court sets a trial date at the Final Pretrial Conference at  
4 which the Court expects the parties to be ready to proceed to trial. The parties shall  
5 confer before the Final Pretrial Conference to identify mutually agreeable trial  
6 date(s) within the 90 days following the Final Pretrial Conference. The trial date  
7 shall be set at the earliest date permitted by the Court's calendar. The Court  
8 will not consider motions or stipulations to continue the Final Pretrial Conference  
9 absent a showing of good cause. The parties shall be diligent in preparing their case  
10 for trial and not expect such motions to be granted.

11 **1. Weeks Before FPTC.** The "Weeks Before FPTC" column reflects what  
12 the Court believes is appropriate for most cases and will allow the Court to rule on  
13 potentially dispositive motions sufficiently in advance of the Final Pretrial  
14 Conference. However, counsel may ask for earlier last dates by which the key  
15 requirements must be completed. Each date should be stated as month, day, and  
16 year, e.g., 10/17/2025.

17 **2. Hearings.** Hearings shall be on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. The Final  
18 Pretrial Conference shall be at 3:00 p.m. Other deadlines (those not involving the  
19 Court) can be any day of the week. Counsel must avoid holidays. The Court may  
20 order different dates than those requested. Believing that young lawyers need more  
21 opportunities for appearances than they usually receive, the Court encourages lead  
22 trial counsel to permit junior counsel, of five or fewer years out of law school, to  
23 fully participate in Court proceedings, including arguing motions and examining  
24 witnesses.

25 **3. Discovery Cut-Off Date.** The discovery cut-off date is the last date by  
26 which all depositions must be completed, responses to previously served written  
27 discovery must be provided, and motions concerning discovery disputes must be  
28 heard.

1           **4. Motions Cut-Off.** The cut-off date for motions is the last date on which  
2 motions may be heard, not filed.

3           **5. Additional Dates.** If the parties wish the Court to set dates in addition to  
4 those on the Worksheet, they may so request by a separate Stipulation and  
5 Proposed Order. This is often appropriate for class actions, patent cases, and  
6 ERISA cases. For ERISA Cases Involving Benefits Claims, the parties may receive  
7 a scheduling conference order as a matter of course. Because the ordinary pretrial  
8 and trial schedule does not apply to these ERISA cases, the parties need only  
9 submit a joint status report identifying any special issues that should be considered.  
10 The parties should proceed with the preparation of the administrative record and  
11 briefing without delay upon service of the complaint. A court trial, ordinarily  
12 limited to oral argument on the administrative record, will be scheduled within  
13 six months from the filing of the original complaint, unless good cause for  
14 additional time is shown in the status report. If the Court concludes that the  
15 decision would not benefit from oral argument, the matter may be submitted for  
16 decision on the papers.

17           **D. COUNSEL MUST DELIVER ORDER TO CLIENTS.**

18           Counsel are ordered to deliver to their clients a copy of this Order, which  
19 will contain the schedule that the Court sets at the scheduling conference. This  
20 and all other generally applicable orders of this court are available on the Central  
21 District of California website, [www.cacd.uscourts.gov](http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov).

22  
23           **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24  
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26 Dated: April 1, 2025

  
25  
26 HON. MONICA RAMÍREZ ALMADANI  
27 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
28

## APPENDIX A

JUDGE MÓNICA RAMÍREZ ALMADANI  
SCHEDULE OF PRETRIAL DATES WORKSHEET

Please complete this worksheet jointly and file it with your Joint Rule 26(f) Report.  
**The Court ORDERS the parties to make every effort to agree on dates.**

Case No.	Case Name:	Parties' Joint Date mm/dd/yyyy	Court Order
Final Pretrial Conference Dates		Parties' Joint Date mm/dd/yyyy	Court Order
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Jury Trial or <input type="checkbox"/> Court Trial <b>[The Court sets the trial date at the Final Pretrial Conference]</b>	Estimated Duration, in days: _____	NA	NA
Final Pretrial Conference ("FPTC") [L.R. 16] <b>[Monday at 3:00 p.m., within 12 months of Scheduling Conference]</b>			
Event <sup>1</sup>	Weeks Before FPTC <sup>2</sup>	Parties' Joint Date mm/dd/yyyy	Court Order
<b>Note:</b> Hearings must be on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Other dates can be any day of the week			
Opposition to Motions in Limine Filing Deadline	3		
Motions in Limine Filing Deadline	4		
Settlement Conference Completion Date [L.R. 16-15] <b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Mag. Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Panel <input type="checkbox"/> Private	5		
Last Date to <b>HEAR</b> Daubert Motions <b>[Monday]</b>	8		
Last Date to <b>HEAR</b> Non-Discovery Motions <b>[Monday]</b> (see Procedures page for Rule 56 Motion deadlines)	12		
Expert Discovery Cut-Off	14		
Expert Disclosure (Rebuttal)	17		
Expert Disclosure (Initial)	21		
Non-Expert Discovery Cut-Off (no later than deadline for <i>filings</i> dispositive motions)	24		
Last Date to <b>Hear</b> Motions to Amend Pleadings/Add Parties <b>[Monday 90 days after Rule 16 Scheduling Conference]</b>	X		

<sup>1</sup> Once issued, this "schedule may be modified only for good cause and with the judge's consent." Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4).

<sup>2</sup> This is the Court's recommended default timeline for certain events. The parties may propose alternate dates based on the needs of each individual case.